

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 18 of the instant specification as follows.

Preferably, the polysorbate is selected from the group consisting of ~~Tween~~TWEEN-20<sup>®</sup> (polysorbate-20) and ~~Tween~~TWEEN-80<sup>®</sup> (polysorbate-80), most preferably ~~Tween~~TWEEN-20<sup>®</sup>. In certain embodiments, the polysorbate is present at a concentration of about 0.001 to 0.1%, preferably at a concentration of about 0.005 to about 0.1%, most preferably at a concentration of about 0.02%. A plurality of polysorbates may also be used.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 15 of the instant specification as follows.

According to the present invention, the addition of a bulking agent such as glycine, a cryoprotectant such as sucrose and/or a polysorbate such as ~~Tween~~TWEEN-20<sup>®</sup> (polysorbate-20) acts to prevent aggregation of IL-11 and protects IL-11 from the harmful effects of shearing and freezing. This in turn increases the ability to handle the protein and provides enhanced shelf-life for IL-11 products. Moreover, according to the present invention, the addition of an antioxidant such as a thioether (e.g., methionine) reduces the oxidation rate of Met<sup>58</sup>, presumably through a competitive redox mechanism.